

REMARKS

Claims 36 and 38-51 are pending in the application. Claim 48 is being amended in this Response. No new matter has been added by this amendment. A check in the amount of \$110.00 is being submitted herewith to cover the cost of a one month extension. Please charge deposit account 02-1818 for any fees owed.

In the Office Action, Claims 48 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. S 102(a, b, e or f) as being anticipated by the admitted prior art ("APA") of Fig. 1 and page 2. Claims 49 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the APA in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,757,263 to Ravindranathan ("*Ravindranathan*"), U.S. Patent No. 5,527,443 to Chan ("*Chan*") or U.S. Patent No. 5,093,774 to Cobb ("*Cobb*"). Claims 36 and 38-47 are allowed.

On May 6, 2002, Applicant filed a power of attorney by assignee and express revocation of prior powers ("POA"), a copy of which is enclosed behind Appendix A. Applicant has also enclosed a copy, behind Appendix B, of a postcard showing that the POA was received by the Patent Office on May 20, 2002. The POA changed the correspondence address, as indicated therein, to the office of Applicant's attorney, Robert Connors. However, the present Office Action was mailed incorrectly to the prior attorney of record for this application. Applicant respectfully requests that all future correspondence be sent to the address listed on the POA.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 48 and 51 under the APA, Claim 48 as amended includes a varistor having a semiconductor body including electrically conductive plates interleaved between zinc oxide layers, an untreated body surface, an interior region and a plurality of separate terminal regions. The varistor further includes nickel barrier caps formed by directly contacting the semiconductor terminal regions of the semiconductor body with a nickel plating solution in order to form a desirably thick nickel barrier cap over the terminal regions of the semiconductor body

without forming a nickel barrier over the interior region of the semiconductor body. The Examiner indicated that Claims 36 and 38-47 were allowable primarily because the claimed product by process steps of "the body surface being untreated" and "bringing only the terminal regions into contact with a nickel plating solution" are not disclosed or suggested by the art of record (see Sections 6 and 7 of the instant Office Action). Claim 48 as amended includes limitations substantially similar to the product by process steps of Claims 36 and 38 to 47, that is, "an untreated body surface" and "directly contacting the semiconductor terminal regions of the semiconductor body with a nickel plating solution". Applicant therefore respectfully submits that amended Claim 48 and Claim 51, which depends therefrom, are patentably distinguished over the art of record for the same reasons that Claims 36 and 38 to 47 have been deemed patentable.


Regarding the rejection of Claims 49 and 50 as being obvious over the APA in view *Ravindranathan, Chan* or *Cobb*, Claims 49 and 50 each depend directly from amended claim 48. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that Claims 49 and 50, like Claim 48, are patentable for the same reasons that Claims 36 and 38 to 47 have been deemed patentable.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 48-51 are patentably distinguished over the art of record. An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art such action is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the above amendment, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Versions with Markings to Show Changes Made."**

Respectfully submitted,

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BY 

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claim 48 has been amended as follows:

48. (Amended) A varistor, comprising:

a semiconductor body including electrically conductive plates interleaved between zinc oxide layers, an untreated body surface, an interior region and a plurality of separate terminal regions; and nickel barrier caps formed by directly contacting the semiconductor terminal regions of the semiconductor body with a nickel plating solution in order to form a desirably thick nickel barrier cap over the terminal regions of the semiconductor body without forming a nickel barrier over the interior region of the semiconductor body.